

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 AF-06 EUR-12 PRS-01 DLOS-03

DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /086 W

----- 119671

R 101350Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6223

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 0477

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, US, XO

SUBJECT: ENTERPRISE TASK FORCE

REF: STATE 284299

1. POL COUNSELOR INFORMED TEJA (MEA JOINT SECRETARY, AMERICAS) JANUARY 6 OF ANTICIPATED ENTERPRISE TASK FORCE MOVEMENT INTO INDIAN OCEAN. TEJA DID NOT REACT EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT, IN VIEW OF POST INDIAN CONSCIOUSNESS OF ENTERPRISE IN 1971, WE COULD PROBABLY EXPECT SOME PRESS COMMENT.

2. GOI'S PRESS SPOKESMAN (MEA HAKSAR) TOLD PRESS JANUARY 9 IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT MOVEMENTS OF AMERICAN SEVENTH FLEET ELEMENTS TOWARD INDIAN OCEAN BUT THAT "INDIAN POLICY ON THE SUBJECT OF THESE REPORTS HAS BEEN OFTEN STATED AND IS WELL KNOWN." SPOKESMAN ALSO RECALLED MRS. GANDHI'S COMMENT AT DINNER FOR MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER (NEW DELHI 0375) EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER

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EXPANSION OF MILITARY BASES AND INDUCTION OF "MASSIVE AND

POWERFUL FLEETS AND ARMAMENTS" INTO INDIAN OCEAN.

3. THE INDIAN NAVY DNI CALLED THE NAVAL ATTACHE BY PHONE
JANUARY 10 TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE TASK FORCE BUT EXPRESSED
NO COMMENTS ON THE FACTUAL INFORMATION PROVIDED HIM.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT FROM PRESS SPOKESMAN'S HANDLING OF
INITIAL INQUIRIES THAT GOI OFFICIALS WILL ATEMPT TO
CONTINUE TO HANDLE FUTURE QUESTIONS IN A RELATIVELY LOW KEY,
BUT THIS WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER PM GANDHI ESCALATES HER
OWN RHETORIC.
SCHNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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